



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**North Carolina Board of Transportation  
Environmental Planning and Policy Committee  
Meeting Minutes for January 5, 2005**

A meeting of the Environmental Planning and Policy Committee (EPPC) was held January 5, 2005 at 8:30 AM in the Board Room (Room 150) of the Transportation Building. Board Member Nina Szlosberg chaired the meeting. Other Board of Transportation members that attended were:

Conrad Burrell	Doug Galyon
Mac Campbell	Marion Cowell
Bob Collier	Cam McRae
Andy Perkins	Tom Betts
Larry Helms	Lanny Wilson
Cam McRae	

Other attendees included:

Don Asper	Carl Gimes	Andy McDaniel
Ben Benton	Rob Hanson	Ehren Meister
Moy Biswas	Dave Henderson	Ken Pace
Tad Boggs	Bill Holman	Chris Rigby
Melinda Castillo	Julie Hunkins	Roger Sheats
Clarence Coleman	Barry Jenkins	L.C. Smith
Scott Conklin	Tim Johnson	John Sullivan
Ken Creech	Matt Lauffer	Greg Thorpe
Steve DeWitt	Don Lee	Marcus Wilner
Bill Gilmore		

Ms. Szlosberg called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM and circulated the attendance sheet.

Ms. Szlosberg accepted a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the December committee meeting as presented. The minutes were approved.

Ms. Szlosberg began by stating that part of the committee's work is to identify environmental challenges early. She also stated that with partnerships, some challenges could be identified that would help the committee with its goal of streamlining. An example of partnerships is the DOT's Ecosystem Enhancement Program (EEP) and the Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF). These

partnerships allow for the acquisition of large tracts of land as part of conservation to protect the water quality. The stream mapping initiative in North Carolina is a result of this partnership. Ms. Szlosberg introduced Bill Holman, Executive Director of the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, to present the stream mapping initiative.

Mr. Holman opened by recognizing other partners in the stream mapping initiative. Mr. Holman recognized Mr. Dempsey Benton, Chief Deputy Secretary of NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and Tim Johnson, Director of the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis. He also recognized NCDOT for their efforts. Mr. Holman stated that the US Geological Survey maps used in the North Carolina, depending on the region, were not accurate and lacked stream data. Mr. Holman referred to the 2004 General Assembly and their discussion on the quality stormwater maps as a reason for this initiative. The General Assembly directed the Geographic Information Coordination Council (GICC) and NCDENR to come up with a plan for 2005 to improve the mapping of streams across the state.

As a result of the initiative, new floodplain maps have been created that provide better tools to identify where streams are located. Mr. Holman referred to the fact that currently there is a high demand from public and private sectors, local, state, DOT, and private economic developers, for accurate stream maps.

Mr. Holman stated that the Clean Water Management Trust Fund measures effectiveness by how they project stormwater quality. This projection is based on how many linear feet of stream they protect or restore. Mr. Holman stated that better maps help make better decisions for their protection and restoration efforts. Mr. Holman then introduced Mr. Andy McDaniel, NCDOT Hydraulics Unit, to share his perspective on the improved maps. Mr. McDaniel stated that the Hydraulics Unit recognized the importance of stream mapping in their business process. He felt there were two main benefits from accurate stream mapping. The first benefit is in the prediction of NCDOT's mitigation needs and anticipated impacts; the second is the administration of NCDOT's stormwater program. Mr. McDaniel also stated that in the next 30 days NCDENR would finalize the DOT's NPDES permit. In this permit there is a new requirement for the development of a post construction management program. It will require the DOT to treat discharges from outfalls into "waters" of the State. For NCDOT to do this effectively, it will need to know where waters of the State are located. Mr. McDaniel stated that the new maps would help them accomplish this new permit requirement. Overall, Mr. McDaniel was optimistic that stream mapping would help the Hydraulics Unit and NCDOT in a variety of ways.

Mr. Holman provided an executive summary of the NCDENR stream mapping report. The report was distributed to the Board members. Mr. Holman asked if Mr. Benton had anything to add to the presentation. Mr. Benton reemphasized that the General Assembly gave them this assignment last summer. Mr. Benton also took this opportunity to recognize all the private and public efforts that went into delineating the streams of North Carolina. He also stated that there is a great deal of benefit and added productivity to all interested parties by having the new stream maps available.

Board Member Ms. Nina Szlosberg made the comment that the scales on most municipal maps are 1:2400, yet the stream maps presented to the Board are at a scale of 1:24000. Ms. Szlosberg then asked, if the group working on this stream mapping initiative started from nothing, or had they continued where previous efforts that had stopped? Mr. Holman responded that they continued working with the current maps, building on existing information. He also added that soon a set of statewide floodplain maps would be available and shared in a digital format. One benefit of making the maps available digitally is the potential for individuals to create their own maps and sharing information. Mr. Holman stated that they had a conference call later that day with the GICC to discuss the approval of the plan. If it is approved, Mr. Holman said they could present a draft resolution at the Board's February meeting.

Board Member Andrew Perkins asked if the group is doing any collaboration with US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for permitting requirements? Mr. Holman stated that they were collaborating with the USACE and other regulatory agencies as part of the stakeholder group. Mr. Holman added that the stakeholder group came to the conclusion that better stream maps help make better decisions.

Board Member Perkins asked if there had been any reduction in the time needed to complete permitting requirements over the two years? Mr. Holman responded by stating that the product of the initiative would allow better planning and make future projects more accurate in mitigation measures. Mr. Benton added that NCDOT and NCDENR realized that present estimates for the mitigation area are fairly overestimated to be conservative. He added that as the design phase approached the stream maps would allow for more financial accuracy in mitigation.

Board Member Mr. Larry Helms asked if they could be provided the minimum criteria for projects to be considered in the Clean Water Management Trust Fund in the new application process? Mr. Holman responded by stating he would get the minimum criteria for the projects considered in the Clean Water Management Trust Fund to the Board Members. Mr. Holman concluded his presentation by thanking the BOT for their time.

Board Member Ms. Szlosberg introduced Mr. Chris Rigby, Assistant Director for the Southern Region of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The NFWF is an agency that has a public-private partnership, which has \$35 million dollars in federal funds to contribute to qualified projects. Mr. Rigby started by thanking the Board for inviting him and recognized that to his knowledge it was the first time NFWF had ever met with a state BOT. The NFWF is a private, non-profit, tax-exempt organization, established by Congress in 1984 and dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants. The Foundation creates partnerships among federal, state and local governments, corporations, private Foundations, individuals, and non-profit organizations. Their goals are to promote healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and plants by generating new commerce for conservation. The Foundation meets these goals by creating partnerships between the public and private sectors and strategically invests in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.

Mr. Rigby stated that the Foundation identifies conservation needs, reviews proposed projects and commits a combination of federal and non-federal funds to conservation projects. The Foundation

commits funds in the form of matching grants. Mr. Rigby acknowledged that NFWF had underserved North Carolina in the regards to grant funding. Since 2001 the Foundation's commitment of grants to North Carolina projects totaled a little over \$2.2 million.

The Foundation's federal partnerships secure funds for the grant programs, identify worthy projects for funding consideration and assist the Foundation in assessing project proposals. Some of the Foundation's federal partnerships include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and Natural Resource Conservation Service. Some of the Foundation's corporate partnerships include Anheuser-Busch, ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Shell Oil Company Foundation, and Southern Company. Mr. Rigby stated that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation role is as a bank. They do not follow through with conservation efforts, only provide the funds to do so.

Board Member Tom Betts asked if the Foundation was an environmental resource for the department or for NCDENR? Mr. Rigby responded by stating that the Foundation serves only as a bank. He also added that most of their grantees are state and local governments.

Board Member Ms. Szlosberg asked if the stream mapping initiative would qualify for the Foundation's funds? Mr. Rigby responded by stating the stream mapping initiative would qualify. Grants are typically in the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000. Mr. Rigby explained that the Foundation goes through three applicant cycles each year, which are spring, summer and fall.

Mr. Roger Sheats, NCDOT Deputy Secretary for Environment, Planning, and Local Governmental Affairs, asked if the NFWF funds could be used to purchase a riparian corridor. Mr. Rigby said that funds are available for such purchases. Mr. Rigby explained that the Foundation's funds must be matched, at a minimum 1:1 ratio. The funds can be Trust Fund money but not mitigation funds, EEP funds, or other federal funds. Seeing no further questions, Ms. Szlosberg thanked Mr. Rigby for his presentation.

Ms. Szlosberg adjourned the meeting at 9:25 A.M.

The next meeting for the Environmental Planning and Policy Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, February 2, 2005 at 8:30 A.M. in the Board of Transportation Room (Room 150) of the Transportation Building.

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